



JPW

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07057.0055-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Takuichi ARAI) Group Art Unit: 1742
)
Application No.: 10/689,618) Examiner: Not Assigned
)
Filed: October 22, 2003) Confirmation No. 4798
)
For: PROTON CONDUCTIVE)
MEMBRANE AND PRODUCTION)
METHOD THEREOF)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached listing PTO/SB/08. To the best of undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-referenced application. Further, each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed documents attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents.

German Patent Publication No. DE 199 19 881 A1 discloses a proton conductive membrane, comprising a layered clay mineral powder which is a cation exchanger or an anion exchanger, and a first cross-linking structure including an -O-SO₂-O- group which crosslinks particles of the layered clay mineral powder. This reference also discloses a production method for a proton conductive membrane, comprising a preparing step of preparing a spreading solution including layered clay mineral powder, which is a cation exchanger or an anion exchanger, and a modifying agent, which contains one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid and metal sulfates, a spreading step of spreading the spreading solution on a substrate, such that a liquid membrane is formed; and a removing step of removing the solvent from the liquid membrane by drying.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

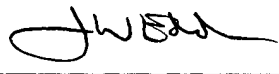
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 25, 2005

By: 
James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known		
				Application Number		10/689,618
				Filing Date		October 22, 2003
				First Named Inventor		Takuichi ARAI
				Art Unit		1742
				Examiner Name		Not Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		07057.0055

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number and Code ² (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
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Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		DE 199 19 881 A1	04/30/99	Haring et al.		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		Poltarzewski, Z., et al., "Novel proton conducting composite electrolytes for application in methanol fuel cells, <i>SOLID STATE IONICS</i> , 119 (1999), pp. 301-304	
		Translation of German Office Action dated January 31, 2005	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.